

Primary Six AQE Preparation



Dear P6 Parent/Guardian,

We hope this letter finds you and your family well. At this time of year, we normally begin preparing for the AQE assessments which take place in November and December, when your child is in P7. These AQE assessments are not compulsory but are required if you wish your child to apply for a Year 8 place in a grammar school, e.g Belfast High, Ballyclare High. Please note Abbey Community College, Hazelwood Integrated College and Ballyclare secondary do not require a child to have an AQE score.

If you are considering that your child sits the AQE assessments, there are a number of factors to consider.

Cost:

There is a fee of approx. £50, free for Free School Meals Children.

Key dates for AQE (CEA) 2020/2021

- Wednesday 29th April 2020: Registration Opens.
- Friday 11th Sep 2020: Registration Closes.
- Saturday 7th Nov 2020: 1st **AQE** Paper.
- Saturday 21st Nov 2020: 2nd **AQE** Paper.
- Saturday 28th Nov 2020: 3rd **AQE** Paper.
- Saturday 30th Jan **2021**: Results.

Standardised test scores: Usually your child completes PTE/PTM tests each school year from Yr 4. However due to Coronavirus they will not have completed Yr 6 tests. You should consider the PTE and PTM scores on your child's P5 end of year reports. Scores in excess of 100 in each usually indicate that your child will find the standard of AQE work suited to their level of ability. They will still find it challenging, but perhaps not so much of a struggle.

Homework: It is vital that you are aware there is a large amount of extra homework associated with AQE. This includes test corrections and extra practice questions which continue into P7. Consider does your child complete homework on time, willingly and independently? Do they need a lot of additional support to complete homework?

Your child's confidence and self-esteem: As well as your child's test scores from past reports and their homework, think about their journey throughout P5 and P6 – have they gained confidence in their own ability? This is something that we want to maintain and boost further. It is, therefore, important to consider this decision carefully.

After careful consideration of the points stated, if you wish your child to begin AQE preparations, please let the class teacher know via Seesaw before 30th April.

Once we have the names of those children wishing to sit the tests, we will prepare an AQE pack which will have 2 tests a week to complete at home, along with answers for marking. This is obviously not ideal but we are very restricted due to the current pandemic. Children should be given one hour maximum to complete the test, and once marked, the scores should be sent to Mrs Campfield via Seesaw. Any corrections should be completed and anything that is causing confusion can be addressed through a Seesaw message until we can return to school.

You will receive notification via Seesaw once the packs are ready to pick up from the school office.

Many thanks

L Brett

Principal